



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Office of Public Affairs
655 Parfet Street - RM. E200C
Lakewood, CO 80215

720-544-2863-OFFICE
720-544-2965-FAX
www.co.nrcs.usda.gov
katherine.burse-johnson@co.usda.gov

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*For additional information
regarding this release contact:*
Katherine Burse-Johnson
Public Affairs Specialist

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Colorado NRCS Announces Availability of Up to \$500,000 in Conservation Innovation Grants

Lakewood, CO – The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced the availability of up to \$500,000 for proposed projects in Colorado through Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) in Fiscal Year 2005. Individual applications will be awarded up to \$75,000 through a competitive grants process for improving conservation practices in Colorado.

“These grants provide an excellent opportunity to demonstrate new conservation technologies or techniques not widely adopted in Colorado,” Dennis Alexander, CIG Program Manager, NRCS, said.

The purpose of CIG, a component of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

Applications will be accepted from eligible entities, including Federally-recognized Indian Tribes, State and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals for

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competitive consideration of grant awards for single or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years.

Applications should demonstrate the uses of innovative technologies or innovative approaches to address a natural resource concern or concerns in one or more of the five priority natural resource concern areas in Colorado, which are: Water Resources, Soil Resources, Atmospheric Resources, Grazing Land and Forest Health, and Wildlife Habitat.

Selected applicants may receive grants of up to 50 percent of the total project cost. Applicants must provide nonfederal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which up to 50 percent may be from in-kind contributions.

Applications must be received in the Colorado NRCS State Office, Room E200C by **4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2005**. Written applications should be sent to **USDA NRCS c/o Dennis Alexander, Assistant State Conservationist (Programs), 655 Parfet Street, Room E200C, Lakewood, CO 80215**.

For additional information on CIG, please contact Alexander at 720-544-2805, email: dennis.alexander@co.usda.gov or Paul Sweeney, Program Coordinator, 303-623-5635 ext. 108, email: paul.sweeney@co.usda.gov. You may also visit the Colorado NRCS website at <http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/cig.htm>.

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